

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

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CHAMBERS'S CYCLOPEDIA OF ENGLISH LITERATURE, Third Edition, Revised by THOMAS CARROLLTON, D.L. 2 vols. \$16. S16. New-York: R. Worthington.

In this new edition of Robert Chambers's valuable work of literary reference, which has gained a high character for practical utility as a guide to English literature during the thirty years that have elapsed since its original publication, the dates are brought down to the beginning of 1876, forming a consecutive record from the fourteenth century to the present time. The work comprises notices of American, as well as English, authors, with extracts from their writings, presenting many names of recent and current celebrity, although the list is singularly inadequate, and appears to have been made up from casual hearsay rather than from actual research and knowledge. Thus we have sketches of R. W. Emerson, Longfellow, Lowell, O. W. Holmes, Herman Melville, Bayard Taylor, Bret Harte, W. W. Story, Mark Twain, Mrs. Beecher Stowe, and others, but no mention is made of Professor Charles Hedge, Horace Bushnell, or Theodore Parker among American theologians, nor of Percival, Sedgwick, Stoddard, or Walt Whitman among the poets, nor of Richard Hilditch, the clear-headed historian of the United States. Bancroft's great work is reported only to the Seventh Volume, published nearly twenty years ago, ignoring his subsequent labors in that department, though just and honorable reference is made to the new History of the United States, by W. C. Bryant and S. H. Gay, published during the past year. While an numerous comparative sketch given to Scottish theology and philosophy, it is singular that the conspicuous services of President McCosh in each of those departments should have been passed over in silence. Instances of inaccuracy in names and dates, like Leslie Stephen, for Stephen, are not of uncommon occurrence, and although the brief critical remarks on different authors are usually judicious, they are sometimes surprisingly wide of the mark, as the assertion that the meteoradic blood and thunder novels of the notorious Ouida (Isabella De La Roche) are "characterized by gentle and poetic feeling and sentiment." These, however, are exceptional and not fatal blunders in a work of genuine merit and value. To the student of English literary history, no masterpiece in the language can supply the place. In a great measure it makes good the want of a large library in the special branch to which it is devoted, giving the reader a taste of the most specimens in such kind, during the successive periods of English culture, and enabling him to obtain a certain familiarity with its masterpieces in prose and verse.

The Second and Third numbers of *The American Library Journal*, published together, contain a variety of good papers on subjects of general interest to bibliographical students and the keepers and frequenters of public libraries.

*The Magazine of American History*, edited by JOHN AUGUST STEEKS, January, 1877, (A. S. Barnes & Co.) is the first number of a new periodical devoted to topics connected with the early history of this country, including original essays, antiquarian documents, notes and queries, and intelligence of an interesting character to historical students. The plan of the work is highly commendable, and the execution of the present number, together with the learning and experience of the editor, affords a guarantee of a valuable and successful publication.

*Letters written by Lord Macaulay to the late Henry S. Bowditch, Author of the *Life of Jefferson*, on the occasion of receiving from the latter a presentation copy of that work.*

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## MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NOTES.

**COLORING MATTER IN TOYS.**—The Sanitary Inspector of Glasgow, Scotland, has found that the yellow toy balloons sold to children are poisonous—that is, the coloring matter consists of one part of chromate of lead and three parts of carbonate of lime; and consequently children, being in the habit of applying their mouths to the orifice of these balloons, will readily receive a quantity of this poisonous powder into their mouths. These balloons, therefore, should be viewed with suspicion. Many other painted toys should be suspected, especially the bright-colored ones, which are not made of wood or metal, and are directly poisonous, are certainly injurious to health. As an abundance of good toys without colors or paints can always be obtained, there is no necessity for putting into the hands of children anything of a questionable nature in this case.

**FLUIDS OF THE MOUTH.**—Dr. Hodson wisely calls attention in *The Medical Record* to the fact that, in any illness involving a feverish condition, the fluids of the mouth are constantly as intensely acid as respects the teeth as in any medicine administered by the physician, and, moreover, from the high temperature of the buccal cavity at such times, the power of these fluids for evil is greatly augmented. A diet of soft, easily digested, and easily digestible food, and unexceptionable refrigeration, are the especially rapid fermentation and decomposition of all food lodged between and around the teeth, and the consequent elimination of other deleterious acids. Dr. Hodson says: "The mucous membranes, which are directly poisonous, are particularly injurious to health. As an abundance of good toys without colors or paints can always be obtained, there is no necessity for putting into the hands of children anything of a questionable nature in this case."

**ARSENICAL POISONING.**—According to Dr. Storer's interesting investigations of the effects of arsenic on larva, chemists who are occupied in judicial researches should not infer that a fly-blown organ can contain no arsenic; if so, flies die almost immediately after alighting on a suspected substance, arsenic is probably present, and should be specially sought for. Facts also show that great differences exist in animals in their several conditions of metamorphosis, thus indicating the caution with which the results of experiments on one species should be expected in applying them to other species.

The point to be noted is that a diet from the effects of arsenic, must of necessity be preserved from decay for an indefinite length of time. Dr. Storer treats as an error; that is, though in many cases of arsenical poisoning the amount of arsenic is administered, portions of the body are not easily diluted according to the sensitiveness of the mucous membrane, and flavored with a few drops of wintergreen or peppermint to make it agreeable.

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